[19th March 1955

Purchase of costly medicines by non-gazetted officers.

* 1483 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that non-gazetted officers are asked to advance fees when treated in Government hospitals; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that they are asked to purchase the medicines required?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Only costly and special medicines which are not available in the hospital concerned are purchased by them and the cost is reimbursed by Government after scrutinizing the claim."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Nowadays hospitals do not stock costly and special medicines. Though free medical treatment is prescribed for non-gazetted officers, still the District Medical Officers or doctors attending on non-gazetted officers do not prescribe costly medicines. Thus the non-gazetted officers are denied the benefit of enjoying costly medicines. May I request the Government to instruct the District Medical Officers to prescribe any medicine that is necessary for the treatment of non-gazetted officers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, it would be done. I may tell the hon. Member that anti-biotic drugs are very dangerous drugs if they are indiscriminately used. It is better we restrict their use."

Reorganization of district boards.

* 1484 *Q.*—SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee for Reorganization of District Boards appointed with Sri Kuttikrishna Menon as Chairman; and

(*b*) whether there is also any proposal to circulate the report of the above Committee for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) The report of the Committee is under consideration.

" (*b*) There is no such proposal."

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR :—" This Kuttikrishna Menon Committee's report on Reorganization of District Boards is under the examination of the Government for a very long time. May I know whether the Government will arrive at an early decision in the matter? May I also know whether the report will be placed on the table of the House for the information of hon. Members? "

19th March 1955]

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" An early decision will be taken, Sir, before the expiry of the life of the present district boards."

Government Hospital, Rajapalayam

* 1485 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the present bed strength of the Government Hospital, Rajapalayam in Ramanathapuram district; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the bed strength and staff in that hospital?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) 16, Sir.

" (b) There is a proposal to construct a ward of 20 beds in the hospital."

Suicides in Malabar.

* 1486 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of suicides in Malabar in 1954 and January 1955;

(b) how many were due to the eating of the poisonous fruit called 'Kolambikaya' or 'Manja Arali Kaya'; and

(c) how many due to other causes?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—

	1954.	January 1955.
" (a)	498	54
" (b)	81	19
" (c)	417	35 "

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" May I know whether there was any case of attempt to commit suicide in the district of Malabar and if so, whether those concerned have been prosecuted? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I would like to have notice."

Causeway across Thambaraparani river at Karuppanthurai.

* 1487 Q.—SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a causeway in the Thambaraparani river near Karuppanthurai to connect Tirunelveli town and Melapalayam in Tirunelveli district;

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands; and

(c) when it is likely to be commenced?